(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has taken up construction of godowns in various States;

(b) if so, what is the number of godowns under construction, Statewise; and

(c) whether some approved works have been abandoned in some States and if so, the details thereof Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The number of godowns under construction by Food Corporation of India during 1993-94, is 15. The Statewise numbers are as below:

1. Himachal Pradesh .	1
2. J & K . . .	2
3. Karnataka . . .	2
4. Andhra Pradesh . .	1
5. Kerala . . .	1
6. West Bengal . .	1
7. Orissa . . .	1
8. Arunachal Pradesh .	1
9. Mizoram . . .	2
10. Madhya Pradesh . .	1
11. Maharashtra . .	1
12. Gujarat . . .	1
TOTAL .	15

(c) Information is being collected.

Sugar Licensing Policy

142. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI GOVINDRAO RAMARAO ADIK:

Will the MINISTER OF FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Sugar Mills Association have, while criticising Government's sugar Licensing Policy, called for immediate review of the liberal incentive scheme; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes Sir. The President, Indian Sugar Mills Association at its 59th Annual General Meeting held on 20th October, 1993 observed that Government should prepone the review of the incentive scheme by the BICP rather than awaiting till March, 1994 as announced in February last.

(b) Government is not planning to prepone the review as suggested by Indian Sugar Mills Association in view of the fact that the present incentive scheme is fully justified and is available only upto 31-3-1994. Incentives to be granted after 1-4-1994 will be based on a study to be conducted by BICP.

New Sugar Factories in Maharashtra

143. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of proposals for setting up new sugar factories in Maharashtra, pending clearance with the Central Government;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision with regard to the clearance of the proposals; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) 225 proposals have been received through Department of Industrial Development for setting up of new sugar factories in Maharashtra as on 31-8-93. These applications have been scrutinised by the Screening Committee. After examination, the recommendations of the Ministry of Food will be sent to the Ministry of Industry where they would be considered by the Licensing Committee, after which letters of intent would be issued by that Ministry.

Prices of Superfine Basmati Rice

144. SHRI S. SURJEWALA: Will the MINISTER OF FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of superfine Basmati rice (Paddy) in the current

paddy season in Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab have fallen and the farmers are forced to resort to distressed sale and it is now selling at Rs. 700 per quintal;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check this distressed sale of paddy and by when the farmers will get remunerative prices of their produce;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to provide relief to the affected farmers (particularly the farmers of Haryana) in the form of bonus/subsidy etc; and

(d) if so, the directions issued by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) Government does not fix separate Minimum Support Price for Basmati Paddy and as such no procurement is done by public procuring agencies under price support scheme.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Licensing Procedure for Sugar Mills

145. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a High Level Group to examine the licensing procedure for sugar mills;

(b) if so, whether the Panel has been asked to submit its report by the end of November, 1993;

(c) if so, what were the points referred to the Committee; and

(d) whether the panel has been asked to go into procedural delay in clearance of sugar mill projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) No such Group has been set up to examine the procedure for grant of letters of intent/industrial licences for setting up of new sugar mills. However, a Group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Food) to review the procedure for conversion of letter of intent into industrial licence, issue of completion certificates and release of incentives to sugar factories set up after grant of letters of intent. The Group has made its recommendations which are under the consideration of Government.

Loss and Profit of F.C.I.

146. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state the details of losses/profits of F.C.I. for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): Food Corporation of India primarily functions as an instrument of the Government of India to undertake the purchase, storage, movement, transport, distribution and sale of foodgrains and other foodstuffs. As the Corporation handle foodgrains for the Public Distribution System on behalf of the Government of India at prices fixed by it for purchase as well as sale, the question of profit or loss does not arise.

The Corporation however carries on at the instance of the Government of India, certain peripheral activities like, handling of fertilizers, wholesale distribution of foodgrains on behalf of a few State Governments, and handling of gift consignments of foodgrains. The losses on these peripheral activities during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount of loss (Rs. in crores)
1990-91	7.95
1991-92	6.72
1992-93	1.12